

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee-

I am writing IN SUPPORT of: S.B. No. 387 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. S.B. No. 392 AN ACT CONCERNING STATEMENTS MADE BY JUVENILES.

I am writing IN STRONG OPPOSITION to the following bills: S.B. No. 365 AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS S.B. No. 388: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE. H.B. No. 5418 AN ACT REVISING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUTES AND INSURANCE STATUTES CONCERNING THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE H.B. No. 5417 AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE JUSTICE AND SERVICES AND FIREARMS BACKGROUND CHECKS. S.B. No. 386 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY LAWS OF THIS STATE. S.B. No. 16 AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME

My name is Taran Gruber. I am writing on behalf of myself and not an organization but I am a school principal and witness the effects of our criminal justice system on a daily basis. Punishment traumatizes children for life and almost never leads to a healthier, more productive citizen. We desperately need more money for mental health, not juvenile detention. Let us show we care for children. Now is the time to invest in issues that really matter to youth - mental health, treatment, affordable housing, public education, job training, healthcare and not to roll back important advances in youth justice through this legislation.

Today I oppose these legislative proposals, with the exception of SB 387 which comes out of the Juvenile Justice and Oversight Committee, through which all of these proposals should be vetted.

Sincerely,

Taran Gruber, citizen and advocate for all children
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Plainville, CT 06062